

Executive Registry

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18 March 1982

NOTE FOR: Mr. Chuck Wilson
C/PAD/OEA

The DDCI received the attached letter recently. He will not be responding to this letter.

As [redacted] and I discussed on the telephone, please respond directly to the author. If you consider it appropriate, feel free to drag OTE into the creation of your response. The author seems to be a sincere citizen and I trust there is something useful and interesting we can say back to him.

STAT

If I may assist, please let me know. Thanks in advance for your help. I would appreciate a copy of your letter.

STAT



SA/DDCI

Attachment

824459

James M. Kahny

STAT

February 15, 1982

Adm. Bobby R. Inman
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Inman:

I am currently preparing an honors thesis for my
Bachelor of Arts from [redacted]

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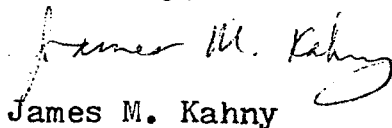
I am majoring in German and
Political Science, and minoring in French. My thesis
addresses the relationship between the status of foreign
language training in school and foreign language pro-
ficiency in government, particularly within the Central
Intelligence Agency.

An integral part of this study is to determine the
opinions of people such as yourself, who would have to
be considered experts on the subject. I have therefore
prepared a brief questionnaire which is enclosed. Because
of its brevity, the questionnaire may not touch upon a
specific aspect on which you would like to comment.
Please feel free to use the back side to clarify any
response or make additional comments.

In the October 10 edition of the Washington Post
I read of your July testimony before a House education
subcommittee during which you said that foreign language
inability in America was having an "adverse impact" on
intelligence, and that the U.S. is vulnerable in exotic
languages. I was very interested in your comments hope
that you could comment further.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a return en-
velope. I would appreciate your returning the question-
aire as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your
help, Admiral Inman.

Sincerely,


James M. Kahny

Enclosures 2

Admiral Bobby R. Inman
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

1. How would you assess the adequacy of foreign language competence in the CIA in terms of the number of qualified speakers and in terms of proficiency?
2. Have there been any recent incidents where lack of language preparedness in the CIA has hurt U.S. interests abroad?
3. What are some of the consequences of a CIA deficient in its foreign language ability?
4. To what extent does the problem lie in lack of emphasis on foreign language training in primary and secondary school, and on the University level?
5. What can be done in order to improve foreign language ability among CIA agents?

-Please use reverse side for additional comments-